

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

**Claim 6:** Line 1, change "any of claims 1 to 5" to  
--claim 1--

**Claim 7:** Line 1, change "any of claims 1 to 5" to  
--claim 1--

**Claim 8:** Line 1, change "any of the preceding claims" to  
--claim 1--

**Claim 12:** Line 1, change "any of claims 1 to 9" to  
--claim 1--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete the improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;  
particularly, extension of time fees.

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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